Patent Claims

1. A method for setting up and/or clearing a communications link having the following features:
a) a connection function (CS1, CS2, 700) for setting up and/or clearing a communications link for transporting communication data is carried out by at least one functional unit in a communications network;
b) a control function for controlling the connection function is carried out by a second functional unit (ZE2, 310, 410) in the communications network; and
c) the first and the second functional units are physically separated from one another.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, having the following features:
a) signaling is carried out in order to control the setting up and/or clearing of a communications link;
b) the connection is set up and/or cleared via a transport network (700);
c) signaling is carried out via a control network (310, 410).

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, in which the signaling is controlled by a central device (ZE2).

4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the communications link in the transport network is set up via at least one decentralized device (CS1, CS2).

5. The method as claimed in claims 3 and 4, in which the central device (ZE2) controls a decentralized switching device (CS1, CS2).

6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which a communications link (300, 400) is

set up and/or cleared to a communications terminal (KE1), and in which the connection via the transport network (700) is set up by producing at least one time slot control information item in the central device (ZE2), which information item is used for setting up connections in the transport network (700).

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, in which the time slot control information is linked to transport-network-specific information and is transmitted to a decentralized device (CS1, CS2).

8. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which an asynchronous transmission method is used for transmission via the communications link (700).

9. The method as claimed in one of claims 2 to 7, in which at least one connection-related service feature and/or a service feature or application, related to the central device is provided by the central device (ZE).

10. An arrangement for setting up and/or clearing a communications link,
a) which has a transport network (700) for providing a communications link (300, 400),
b) which has a control network (310, 410) for controlling the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link (700, 300, 400),
c) and which has means for controlling the setting-up and/or clearing of connections in the transport network (300, 400, 700) by means of a control network (310, 410), with these means being arranged physically separately from the transport network.

11. The arrangement as claimed in claim 9, in which the transport network has at least one decentralized device ((SLMO1, SLMO2) for connection of a

communications terminal (KE1, KE2), and has a switching device (CS1, CS2) in the region of the decentralized device in order to provide a communications link in the transport network.

12. The arrangement as claimed in claim 9, in which the control network (310, 410) has a central device (ZE2) for control.

13. The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, which has central means for providing at least one connection-related service feature and/or a service feature or application relating to a central device, with these means being operatively connected to the central device (ZE2).

14. The arrangement as claimed in claim 10 or 11, which is in the form of a private branch exchange and has at least two decentralized devices (DZ1, DZ2) for connection of communications terminals (KE1, KE2).

15. The arrangement as claimed in claim 12 and claim 13.

16. The arrangement as claimed in one of claims 9 to 14, which, in the region of the decentralized device (DZ1, DZ2), has a control device (CS1, CS2) for providing a communications link in the region of this decentralized device, if the central control device (ZE2) is not available.